

COUNTRY GERMAN	REPORT NO. D-E-58-B-2975-A	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT KOLYMA Mining Area.		
AREA REPORTED ON BUTYGYCHAG, USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAF)
DATE OF REPORT 9 - 12 Feb 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Jul 47 to Jun 53	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) JOSEPH L. FESER, Major, USAF		SOURCE 199921
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
I. PREAMBLE: SOURCE was interned from Jul 47 to Jun 53 in two Russian forced labor camps in the KOLYMA Mining Area. During that time he worked from Jul 47 to Nov 48 as general laborer at the maintenance of the Road, Pt 5, Incl 1, this Report, and was interned in the Forced Labor Camp, Pt 4, Incl 1, this Report. From Nov 48 to Jun 53 SOURCE was interned in a forced labor camp next to the unidentified Gold Mine RUDNIK BYELOVA (SOURCE's spelling, coordinates unknown), and worked in this mine and processing plant as general laborer. SOURCE defined the location of RUDNIK BYELOVA in an 80 km perimeter in the area NW of BUTYGYCHAG (6119N-14911E). On the place of work and in the forced labor camps SOURCE was closely guarded by Russian MVD soldiers. In Jan 45 SOURCE had worked as a civilian in EAST PRUSSIA where he had been arrested and sentenced to 25 years forced labor on an alleged espionage charge. SOURCE spoke Russian fluently. All info contained in this Report is based on SOURCE's personal observation, unless otherwise indicated. II. FORCED LABOR: Interned in the forced labor camp RUDNIK BYELOVA were 800 inmates, 60 % of whom were Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian nationals, 20 % were Russians, 10 German convicts, 15 Poles, Hungarians and Rumanians. From conversations with inmates, SOURCE concluded that 25 % of the Baltic nationals had been convicted to 25 years forced labor on suspected partisan activity while all other inmates had 20 to 25 years sentences on charges of sabotage, such as minor thefts of food, equipment, or consumer goods, and inability to meet norms. SOURCE met no criminal offenders in RUDNIK BYELOVA. The Russian inmates had been sentenced on charges of cooperation with German occupational authorities during WW II. The Forced Labor Camp RUDNIK BYELOVA was an area 400x400 m, which contained 60 wooden single-story barracks, 20x8x5 m, with wooden shingled gable roofs. There was sufficient room in the billets, each was occupied by 15 inmates. Clothes and bedding had been adequately supplied since Jul 49. Up to this time the inmates had to get along with makeshift supplies. From Jul 47 to Nov 50 the daily ration consisted of 800 grams of bread, 3 times daily 500 grams of gruel. Nov 50 onward the daily rations improved by adding of 200 grams millet pap and 200 grams of bread once daily. Food with potatoes or vegetables were issued occasionally from Jun to Sep each year. Countermeasures towards scurvy were taken and the inmates were issued vitamin tablets and given glucose injections. The medical facilities in the camp were inadequate, there was a Russian woman doctor, who had been a nurse in Russian PW Camp in Germany. There were no drugs and only inadequate first aid equipment. Serious cases were taken to an unidentified central 1 INCL. Overlay of WAC 123 P. 6.		
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hospital 50 km away. The most frequent cases were frostbite, which were treated very crudely.

The forced laborers in RUDNIK BYELOVA were guarded by 400 Russian MVD soldiers. From conversations with a few of these soldiers, SOURCE concluded that most had violated the Russian martial law and were here on refractory assignments. On the way to and from work, the convicts were guarded, one MVD soldier for two convicts. These guards were frequently reinforced by patrols with blood hounds.

From the 800 inmates in this forced labor camp 600 worked in the gold mine or in the gold processing plant. 200 inmates were usually detailed to supply timber as fuel for the camp. The gold mine was operated on two 12-hour shifts daily, each shift yielded 150 tons of ore, which were processed to 5 kgs of 65 % pure gold in the processing plant. The chief engineer of the mine was "WELLING", a released prisoner from the Baltic states. Work norms in the gold mine were set for drilling at 12 drills, 1.5 m deep, 0.04 m thick, during one 12-hour shift. Drilling equipment was Russian made and of poor quality. An underground worker had to shovel 750 kgs of ore into narrow gauged field RR cars and push these to transloading stations in several cases located up to 1500 m away from the working sites. Norms in the processing plant were highly set too; a general laborer at a rotary ore crusher had to shovel 15 tons of ore during one 12-hour shift. When the forced laborers occasionally attained these norms, they were being set higher; the laborers were then told they had not attained the norms. Laborers were grouped into brigades of 60 to 100 members. The foremen of these working groups usually sided with their subordinates. From Nov 48 to Nov 49 the relation between workers and supervisors depended on the attainment of the set norms. Laborers were frequently abused and beaten. From Nov 49 these conditions improved by applying less pressure to attainment of norms. The beating of laborers was then strictly prohibited. Fellow convicts told SOURCE that several supervisors had been removed from their assignments because they were still beating laborers. Since May 52, forced laborers were paid from 100 to 300 Rubles monthly, depending on their work performed.

During 1949 were rumors according to which a Latvian forced laborer had escaped but after 3 days had been caught again. This man was known to have hidden with local Russian civilians. It was rumored that Russian authorities hired Yakuts for tracking down escaped convicts. In Aug 52 Russian authorities in RUDNIK BYELOVA announced that 2 Russian forced laborers had been executed for attempted riots in an unidentified forced labor camp in the area.

The local population was very friendly towards the convicts. SOURCE thought this due as most of these people were released forced laborers.

SOURCE thought the only military units garrisoned in the area were the MVD units detailed to guard the various forced labor camps. The guard force for each camp averaged 500 MVD soldiers.

When SOURCE was in MAGADAN (5934N-15048E) from Jun to Jul 53, he met fellow convicts who had worked in tin and copper mines in the area. One fellow PW who had been interned in an unidentified forced labor camp N of the arctic circle told SOURCE that there he had worked in uranium ore mines.

According to various types of equipment carried N on the Road, Pt 5, Incl 1, this Report, SOURCE concluded that large-scale construction work was under way at unidentified sites. Fellow convicts told SOURCE later on that a few electric power plants were under construction in the area of the KOLYMA River.

III. TRAFFIC AND ROAD REPAIR WORK:

Reference is made to Incl 1, this Report, an Overlay of WAC 123, on which SOURCE identified the following Points:

1. ROAD. N terminal at RUDNIK BYELOVA (SOURCE's spelling, coordinates unknown). Badly maintained crushed stone surface 8 m wide, lined on both sides by steep mountain grades. Light traffic of STUDEBAKER 2½ ton trucks which carried

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food and mining equipment to the NW, and returned mostly empty SE. Vehicles in either direction closely guarded by Russian MVD soldiers. SOURCE occasionally repaired the surface.

2. ROAD BRIDGE. Spanned the River, Pt 3. Timber on piles, 50 m long, 8 m wide. Wooden earth fill type abutments; clearance 4 m. Level approaches. Trucks did not slow down when crossing.

3. RIVER. Name unknown. Moderate flow to the S; 35 m wide, with shallow gravel and crushed stone banks. Highwater from May to Jun inundated on both banks an area 20 m wide.

4. FORCED LABOR CAMP. 35x12x5 m, single-story wooden barrack with shingled deck roof, inhabited by 40 forced laborers employed with repair work at the Road, Pt 5.

5. ROAD. N terminal unknown; S terminal MAGADAN (5934N-15048E) via UST OMCHUK (6109N-14938E) and PALATKA (6006N-15054E). Well maintained crushed stone surface 10 m wide, lined on both sides mostly with steep grassy mountain grades, or grey bare rock slopes. Cuts through mountain grades and slopes were on several unlocated sites. Owing to heavy traffic in both directions, surface continuously repaired by forced laborers, billeted in camps at 8 km intervals on both sides. The Forced Labor Camp, Pt 4, was at kilometer stone # 205. Kilometers counted from MAGADAN to the N.

Vehicles travelled with 10 to 15 minute intervals in both directions. There were 50 % STUDEBAKER 3-axle trucks, and 50% ZIS 2-axle trucks; both types were Diesel driven. Most trucks towed a 2-axle trailer. From that SOURCE concluded both makes were 5-ton type trucks. N-bound traffic comprised 3-axle tank trucks with 2-axle tank trailers filled with Diesel fuel and gasoline, then ordinary trucks loaded with food, such as millet, flour, gruel, corn, and occasionally vegetables. Other freight were various types of steel profile girders, 7 m long, narrow gauge field RR rails, heavy RR rails 8 m long, cement in grey bags, truck engines, electric motors in wooden boxes 1.5x1x1.2 m, rubber insulated cables on reels, grey and brown metal wire on reels, steel ropes, red-brown metal sheets, 1.2x1.5 m, possibly 0.01 m thick; on several days during each week passed similar vehicles loaded with wooden boxes, 6x2x1.5 m and 4x3x1.5 m. SOURCE saw no markings or inscriptions on these boxes. SE-bound traffic same volume, but mostly empty vehicles. Several trucks bore license plates with OS-87-54. Vehicles in either direction closely guarded by Russian MVD soldiers. Russian drivers going N told SOURCE that after 10 days they would be on their return trip and again pass by the Forced Labor Camp, Pt 4. SOURCE estimated the speed of loaded N-bound vehicles at 25 to 30 km/h, the speed of empty SE bound vehicles at 40 km/h. Fuel stations and repair shops were located at 50 km intervals along this road. Breakdowns of vehicles occurred frequently; SOURCE thought this due to heavy overloading of the trucks. There was no organized recovery service. There was a similar traffic volume at night. Russian drivers told SOURCE that armed bandits occasionally held up trucks and mostly robbed food and clothes. SOURCE did not hear of traffic impediments, such as stone or snow avalanches. Snow was regularly cleared away by a few US made snow plows.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Fellow convicts told SOURCE that the postal address for the forced labor camp RUDNIK BYELOVA was Khabarovskiy Kray, Rudnik Byelova, # 283.

Russian civilians told SOURCE that up to 1948 gold was possible to be disposed of on an unidentified black market. From then on the demand rapidly decreased.

During the time from Nov 48 to Jun 53 SOURCE saw from Apr to Sep every week a twin engined low mount wing type aircraft at an estimated height of 2,000 m which crossed RUDNIK PYELOVA from E to W and returned on the following day.

When it was announced by radio that STALIN was sick, the guards in the forced labor camps were being reinforced to twice the ordinary strength. In the forced labor camp RUDNIK LYELOVA was one radio. Reception were amplified by transmitters

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in the various billets. Regular broadcasts were made by a station in MAGADAN, and one in Khabarovsk (4830N-13506E).

Winter lasted from mid Aug to May, no winds, lowest temperatures from Dec to Feb with 40 to 55 degrees centigrades below zero. From Oct to Nov snowfalls, 1.5 m to 2 m high. Thaw set in during May, with occasional frosts at night. Summer lasted from Jun to mid Aug, no winds, with temperatures of 20 to 30 degrees centigrades above zero. Only a semi-darkness from 2400 hrs to 0100 hrs local time.

Philip H. Rupp, 1st Lt. USAF
JOSEPH L. FESER
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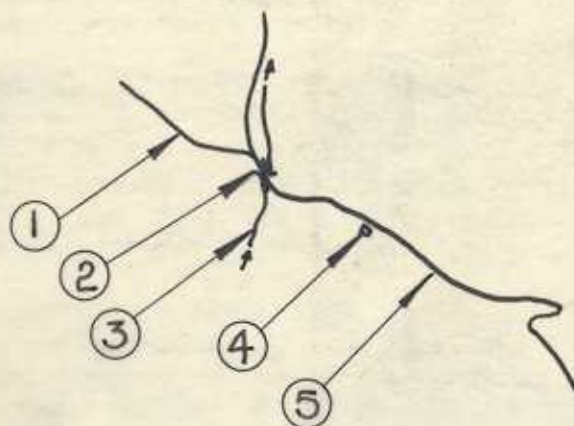
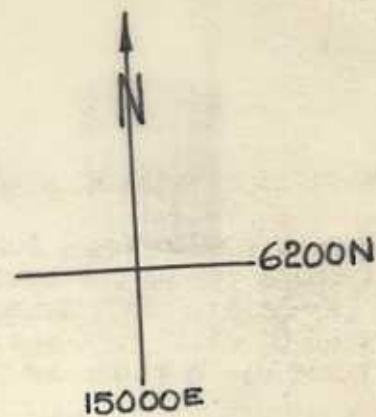
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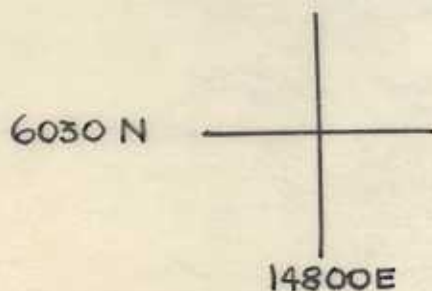
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COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. D-E-58-B-2975-C	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT UN Prisoners in USSR.		
AREA REPORTED ON BUTYGYCHAG, USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050th AISSW (USAF)	
DATE OF REPORT 9 to 12 Feb 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Nov 48 to Jul 53	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) JOSEPH L. FESER, Major, USAF	SOURCE 199921	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
I. <u>PREAMBLE:</u> SOURCE was interned from Nov 48 to Jun 53 in a forced labor camp next to the gold mine RUDNIK BYELOVA (SOURCE's spelling, coordinates unknown); Reference is made to Report A. In Jun 53 SOURCE together with other forced laborers was taken to the Forced Labor Camp, Pt 5, Incl 1, Report B, in MAGADAN (5934N-15048E). Concentrated here were 200 forced laborers who were scheduled to be repatriated. From MAGADAN these people travelled by passenger ship to NAKHODKA (approximate coordinates 4250N-13254E), where they boarded a freight train for the trip on the Transsiberian Railroad. SOURCE spoke Russian fluently. All info contained in this Report is based on SOURCE's personal observation, unless otherwise indicated. II. <u>UN PRISONERS IN USSR.</u> When SOURCE arrived in Nov 48 in the forced labor camp next to the gold mine RUDNIK BYELOVA, 3 Chinese Nationalists were already interned here. Fellow convicts told SOURCE these men had been officers. They were treated in the same manner as the other inmates and also worked in the gold mine RUDNIK BYELOVA. Russian guard soldiers told SOURCE the postal address for this camp was KHABAROVSKIY KRAY, RUDNIK BYELOVA, # 283. SOURCE had no opportunity to talk to these men and did not know the reason why they were interned in a forced labor camp. Other fellow convicts who worked with these men in a same brigade told SOURCE that they were being interrogated once monthly by the MVD authorities in the forced labor camp. During Sep 51 arrived 50 South Korean PWs in RUDNIK BYELOVA from a forced labor camp "POLTAVA" (SOURCE's spelling, coordinates unknown), which was rumored to be 100 km farther N. According to rumors there were some officers in that group, who were also detailed to work in the gold mine and were treated in the same manner as the other inmates. Fellow PWs who spoke to several of these POWs told SOURCE these men had been taken prisoners by North Korean Forces during the early stages of the conflict. SOURCE did not know when these men had been turned over into Russian custody or the reason of their internment. When SOURCE was being taken in Jun 53 to MAGADAN to be repatriated, 25 of the South Koreans and the 3 Chinese Nationalists were also moved to MAGADAN; 200 forced laborers were concentrated here, of whom all were to be repatriated. SOURCE did not see the remaining 25 South Koreans when they embarked on the passenger boat ILYITZH (SOURCE's spelling) on the 20 Jul 53. The 25 South Korean POWs and the 3 Chinese Nationalists stayed in the forced labor transport until they left the train in CHITA (5203N-11330E). It was rumored that these men were to be repatriated also.		
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<i>Philip H. Rugg, 1st Lt. USAF</i> JOSEPH L. FESER Major USAF Commander 7058th AISS		
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